

GROUNDFISH STOCK ASSESSMENT RESULTS FOR 2007-08

CURRENT STOCK STATUS: 22 species of groundfish were assessed or re-assessed in 2005 and have been accepted for use in 2007-2008 management. This summary provides a general description for each species' stock status and its implications for California commercial and recreational fisheries. *Species that have the greatest effect on providing fishing opportunities are shown in **bold italics**.*

Species under rebuilding plans (i.e., OVERFISHED):

1. **BOCACCIO rockfish – status quo; more constraining in S CA
2. ****CANARY rockfish - slowly rebuilding; most constraining species to CA sport & commercial fisheries**
3. COWCOD rockfish – rebuilding; large habitat closures in S CA where this species primarily occurs (Cowcod Conservation Area)
4. * **DARKBLOTCHED rockfish – most constraining to commercial in N CA (north of 40°10' and between 40°10' and 38°)**
5. **Lingcod – Formerly overfished; newly declared REBUILT in 2005 for coastwide stock – but CA portion of the stock not as healthy as northern portion of stock (still near 25%); important
6. * PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH – southernmost extent of range; not important to CA
7. * WIDOW rockfish – still depleted; commercial importance
8. YELLOW EYE rockfish – not expected to be constraining for CA -more constraining for OR/WA fisheries (waiting for final assessment results in March 2006)

New assessments in 2005:

9. **Cabezon – no change from last assessment; very important N of Pt. Conception
10. **CA Scorpionfish – very healthy; very important to S CA
11. **Gopher rockfish – very healthy; important N of Pt. Conception; affects minor nearshore RF harvest level for 2007-08
12. **Kelp greenling, CA stock – results inconclusive; assessment rejected for CA (status quo)
13. * Starry flounder – cautiously healthy; status quo
14. **Vermilion rockfish – mixed results, not approved for setting OYs; treated as healthy and status quo catch OK; very important CA coastwide

Assessment updates:

15. * Sablefish – status quo - still depleted; commercial importance
16. * English sole – very healthy; commercial importance
17. * Longspine thornyhead – very healthy; commercial importance
18. * Shortspine thornyhead – very healthy; commercial importance
19. * Dover sole – healthy; commercial importance
20. * Yellowtail rockfish – healthy; commercial importance; assessment limited
21. * Blackgill rockfish – healthy; commercially important in CA
22. * Petrale sole – subjected to overfishing 2005; commercially important; reductions in opportunities expected

KEY to assessment list:

* species are primarily of interest to the commercial fishery or are not a CA target

** species important to both commercial and recreational fisheries

CAPS: species in CAPS are OVERFISHED

Percent of unfished stock size that federally defines its health status:

Very Healthy = 60% or greater

Healthy = 40% or greater

Depleted = 25-40%

Overfished = less than 25%

Overfishing = harvest above annual Allowable Biological Catch (ABC)

STOCK ASSESSMENT HISTORY:

- 29 species of groundfish out of the 83 species contained in the [Federal Groundfish Fishery Management Plan](#) have been assessed to date.
 - 27 assessments are approved for use in setting catch levels for stocks in California
 - 8 species were declared overfished
 - 19 species were declared healthy or depleted
 - 2 assessments for the California stock of 2 species were rejected due to insufficient data ([vermillion rockfish](#); [kelp greenling](#) was approved for the Oregon stock but not the California stock).
- **[Black rockfish](#) – healthy stock; was last assessed in 2003 and can be constraining.**
- ***Minor nearshore rockfish – non-assessed species complex but can be constraining.***